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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT

Anti-nationalist Measures in Kazakhstan - Political, Economic, Cultural

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- 1. "Wide spread purges were carried out in the summer of 1952 among Kazakhs employed in various offices in the Semipalatinsk Oblast. These purges were the result of investigations conducted in the first half of 1952 by the MVD and MGB organs, who allegedly uncovered a plot among some Kazakh members of the Communist Party. They were found guilty of helping other Kazakha, members of the Party, to secure jobs in various offices of the Semipalatinsk Oblast, and of dismissing Russian officials from various posts under the pretext that they had committed disciplinary or other offences. After the 'plot' had been uncovered, the whole staff of the Semipalatinsk OBKOM (Oblast Committee) was fired by the Central Committee of the Party and an entirely new staff appointed.
- 2. "Grigori Melnik, a Ukrainian officer of the MCB, was appointed chief of the OBKOM, while (fnu) Kalenov, a Russian, took over the functions of the chief of the Executive Committee of the oblast. These two new dignitaries have gradually introduced an iron discipline and really dictatorial rule in the oblest. Discrimination against lower officials of the Kazakh nationality has been intensified. When the plenums (plenary sessions) of the Party are held, (fnu) Melnik does not even allow the Kazakh officials to attend them, but orders them to sign the minutes of the sessions without their participation.
- 3. "An almost military discipline has also been introduced in the kolkhozes. The kolkhoz workers' brigades leave for work at dawn and return late at night. Every brigade has to fulfill a 'norm' which is from 100 to 150 per cent higher than the official working norm. For not fulfilling these increased norms or for the slightest damage to tools or machines the workers must pay 100 rublest of 'Shtraf' (fine). Those who are late at work are sentenced to one month imprisonment in an ITS (corrective labor) camp.
- 4. "All exhibits pertaining to Kazakhstan's past and its separate, national characteristics have been removed from the mobile exhibitions held in Dzhambul and Semipalatinsk, and replaced by others, which stress the ties linking Kazakhstan with Russia. When I saw these two exhibitions at the beginning of August 1952, I noticed that all the old regional folk dresses, carpets, ornaments, objects of art and documents describing and pertaining to the struggle of the Kazakhs

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against Russia in the XVIII and XIX centuries, and more recently in the 1920's, had been removed. Instead, displays, well stocked with diagrams and drawings, illustrated the misery of the Kazakhs and their exploitation by the old Kazakh nobility, 'Bai' and 'BIY', before the conquest of Kazakhstan by Russia in the XVIII and XIX centuries. The footnotes to these diagrams and drawings explain that only the Kazakh nobility fought against the Czarist Russia. The Kazakh people actively helped the Russian army to free the country from the feudal slavery.

- 5. "Also in the museums in Alma Ate, Dzhambul, Bemipalatinsk and other towns in Kazakhstan, all rich Kazakh folk dresses and all documents illustrating the fight of Kazakhs against Czarist Russia, which were on display up to June 1952, have now completely disappeared. New exhibits, prepared by the Institute of Ristory and the Institute of the Party in Alma Ata, have replaced them. They illustrate the 'historical unity' of Kazakhstan and Russia, since the Middle Ages.
- 6. "Another example of measures sined at suppression of national feelings among the local population comes from Alma Ata. In the second half of July 1952 a conference of delegates from provincial trade union branches (Profsoyuz) was held in that town. During this conference, which dealt with the fall and winter propaganda campaign in factories and enterprises, the manager of the head office of the Profsoyuz, (fnu) Beisenov, warned the delegates against the anti-Soviet' and 'erroneous' ideology which links Kazakhstan with the Asiatic countries. 'Kazakhstan', he contended, belongs to the Soviet family of nations', with the Russian nation at the head. Mass lectures, talks and discussions along this line were to be conducted in the fall and winter of 1952 throughout the whole country."

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